

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-03 VO-03 SCA-01

CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00 IO-14 DODE-00 PM-07

INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /155 W

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FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2574

AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV VIA POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 1853

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS; PINS, WB, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET JEWS AT MARIENFELDE

REF: BERLIN 1810

1. AS RESULT OF DISCUSSION AT COMMANDANTS' MEETING
WITH GOVERNING MAYOR OCTOBER 24 ABOUT POSSIBLE
SECURITY PROBLEMS CAUSED BY PRESENCE OF SOVIET
JEWS AT MARIENFELDE REFUGEE CENTER, WE HAVE OBTAINED
ADDITIONAL DATA CLARIFYING FIGURES REFTEL.

2. IT NOW APPEARS THERE WAS A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE
IN ARRIVALS AT MARIENFELDE IN AUGUST, WHEN 49 SOVIET
JEWS ARRIVED (22 FROM ISRAEL, 27 VIA VIENNA)
OUT OF A TOTAL OF 110 SOVIET JEWS WHO HAVE
REGISTERED AT THE CAMP FROM JANUARY 1, 1973,
TO DATE. ARRIVALS IN SEPTEMBER TOTALED 14,
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AND FROM OCTOBER 1 THROUGH OCTOBER 25, 9. THERE

ARE AT PRESENT A TOTAL OF 91 JEWISH REFUGEES AT MARIENFELDE, OUT OF A TOTAL OF ABOUT 540 INMATES IN CAMP, OF WHOM ABOUT 420 FROM EASTERN EUROPE. OF 91, 78 FROM SOVIET UNION, 9 FROM POLAND, AND 4 FROM ROMANIA. CAMP OFFICIALS INDICATE FIGURES IN REFTEL REFLECTED "HARD-CORE" GROUP OF LONG-TERM RESIDENTS IN CAMP, AS OPPOSED TO TRANSIENTS, WHO MOVE OUT TO RESETTLEMENT IN CONSIDERABLY SHORTER PERIOD.

3. ACCORDING TO CAMP OFFICIALS AS WELL AS SENAT SOURCES, REFUGEES ALL CLAIM GERMAN ORIGINS AND WERE APPLYING FOR EXPELLEE STATUS (VERTRIEBENER). THEY WERE INCLINED TO COME TO WEST BERLIN RATHER THAN FRG BECAUSE PROCESSING TO OBTAIN SUCH STATUS GENERALLY TOOK SHORTER TIME (1-3 MONTHS) AND BECAUSE RELATIVELY LARGE AND WELL-ORGANIZED JEWISH COMMUNITY IN WEST BERLIN WAS SOLICITOUS AND HELPFUL IN THEIR EFFORTS TO GET SETTLED. ALTHOUGH HERZ INDICATED MANY OF JEWS AT MARIENFELDE PLANNED TO SETTLE IN FRG, CAMP OFFICIALS STATE THAT ALL INTEND TO SETTLE IN WEST BERLIN.

4. COMMENT: INASMUCH AS THERE DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN SHARP INCREASE IN ARRIVAL OF SOVIET JEWS IN RECENT WEEKS, WE PROPOSE TO CONTINUE TO HANDLE QUERIES AS INDICATED REFTEL. (LOCAL PRESS REPRESENTATIVE HAS INDICATED HE UNDERSTANDS THERE ARE ALSO ARABS AT CAMP, BUT IT TURNS OUT THERE IS ONLY ONE ARAB, MARRIED TO GERMAN, WHO IS UNABLE TO LEAVE CAMP BECAUSE ONLY HOUSING AVAILABLE AT PRESENT IS THAT FOR HIS WIFE WHO LIVES IN WOMEN'S DORMITORY.) IN VIEW OF SENAT CHANCELLERY HEAD HERZ, WHICH WE SHARE, FIGURE OF ABOUT 100 JEWS AT CAMP IS MANAGEABLE, BUT SHOULD NUMBERS OF REFUGEES SHOOT UP, WE WOULD FACE NEW SITUATION AND SENAT MIGHT WISH TO GIVE THOUGHT TO MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR FINDING TEMPORARY LODGING OUTSIDE OF CAMP. KLEIN

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